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SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

July 1, 1939

THE APPROPRIATION BILL

On June 28 Congress passed the \$1,194,488,633 agricultural appropriation bill which now awaits only the President's signature to become law.

The Pepper amendment, providing \$75,000 for fire control and irrigation construction work in the Florida everglades, was included in the appropriation, with the proviso that no expenditures be made for these purposes until an equal amount shall have been made available by the State of Florida for the same purposes.

The total of the 1940 appropriation for the Soil Conservation Service is \$23,645,584, the same as that for 1939. A research item of \$120,645 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service during the past fiscal year from the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering to cover irrigation and drainage work formerly carried out by that Bureau.

The appropriation for the water facilities program is \$500,000, for cooperative farm forestry \$300,000, and for the land utilization program under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Act, \$4,978,330.

The totals made available under the last three items are appropriations to the Secretary and will be allotted by him to the bureaus carrying out the various functions under these appropriations.

The Johnson amendment, which would have limited to \$500,000 the funds to be available for general administrative expenses in the District of Columbia, was deleted in conference.

NEW TERRITORY FOR REGIONS 9, 10, and 2

A field memorandum signed last week by the Chief assigns the territory of Alaska to Region 9. Activities in Hawaii and Puerto Rico are to be under the administration of Regions 10 and 2 respectively.

CHIEF IS BUSY IN THE FIELD

At Temple, Texas, on May 29, H. H. Bennett addressed thousands of farm leaders, farmers, and conservation leaders on erosion prevention.

Reminding his hearers that nearly 11,000,000 acres of Texas soil had been virtually destroyed by erosion, Dr. Bennett said the soil conservation districts program is a means through which the people of Texas can meet and solve one of their greatest problems.

State Senator L. J. Sulak and State Representative Bailey B. Ragsdale, co-authors of the state soil conservation bill, spoke at the luncheon given in Dr. Bennett's honor at which Governor W. Lee O'Daniel acted as toastmaster.

The Temple rally was the first state-wide conservation meeting in Texas. The newly created State Soil Conservation Board elected officers and formulated a policy for the enactment of the districts law.

The Temple Daily Telegram issued a special edition devoted to soil conservation on May 29. A short biography of the chief was featured. In a signed article Dr. Bennett outlined the opportunities offered under the districts law.

In a feature article in the special edition of the Telegram, Regional Conservator Louis P. Merrill pointed to the districts law as an important milestone in the progress toward the conservation of soil resources. Other contributors were State Coordinator Paul W. Walser and W. J. Neumann, project leader of the Elm Creek project.

Dr. Bennett visited Region 6 to attend the opening of Buffalo Lake near Amarillo on May 28.

Arriving on May 26, he was interviewed on the soil conservation program over KGNC at 5:30 p.m. by John McCarty, president of the Panhandle Water Conservation Authority and editor of the Amarillo News Globe. At 8:30 he led a roundtable discussion over the same station with A. A. Meredith of WPA; James C. Foster of BAE; H. H. Finnell, Alan Furman, and Ted Smith of SCS; and Carl Hinton and Mr. McCarty of the PWCA.

Dr. Bennett was the principal speaker at the dedication of the lake and its presentation to the public on May 29. Buffalo Lake covers 1,870 acres, and is the first of its size to be completed in the Panhandle.

At National, Iowa, on June 8, Dr. Bennett attended the Soil Conservation Service field day exercises sponsored by the McGregor-Farmersburg project officials in connection with the observation of Iowa's soil conservation week.

As principal speaker at the exercises, he declared that if this country is to be a permanent nation, soil conservation is one job that cannot be postponed. At the rate we are going today, he estimated, the job might be completed in another 30 years.

Other speakers on the program were R. K. Bliss, director of the Iowa Extension Service, and R. H. Musser, regional conservator of the Upper Mississippi Valley region.

During the afternoon Dr. Bennett visited several farms to view conservation work after which he addressed a meeting of McGregor people at the newly completed Walton Hollow dam. Formal dedication of the entire dam project will take place when two other retention dams are finished, probably in the early fall.

Dr. Bennett recently spent several days in Region 5 reviewing the work on various projects and discussing methods of improving the demonstration program.

Regional conservator R. H. Musser, regional information officer L. R. Combs, the five State coordinators, and representatives of colleges and soil conservation advisory committees from all five States accompanied Dr. Bennett on his inspection tour.

Soil Conservation Service demonstration projects at Freeport, Ill., and Kahoka, Mo., were included in the itinerary as well as a Land Utilization area in Van Buren County, Iowa, which was recently turned over to Iowa State College to be used as a pasture demonstration.

Before leaving the region, Dr. Bennett also visited the Land Utilization project at Baudette in northern Minnesota.

PRESIDENT EXTENDS FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

An executive order signed by President Roosevelt on June 28 grants to all government employees a holiday on July 3. The order extends the Fourth of July holiday from Saturday midday to Wednesday morning and applies to all employees of the Department of Agriculture, both in Washington and in the field.

IRRIGATION INVESTIGATIONS ASSIGNED TO REGION 10

Under the reorganization plan of the Secretary of Agriculture issued last November the division of irrigation of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service. This division had jurisdiction over the construction and hydrologic phases of farm irrigation investigations.

Fiscal, procurement, and personnel matters for all irrigation projects west of the Mississippi River were administered from a central office at Berkeley, Calif. These projects, although distributed through several Soil Conservation Service regions, will continue to be administered as one unit. Effective July 1, 1939, they will come under the jurisdiction of H. E. Reddick, regional conservator of Region 10.

DRAINAGE CAMPS INTEGRATED WITH SCS

Thirty-eight drainage camps, formerly under the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, were transferred to the Soil Conservation Service by the Secretary of Agriculture in November 1938. The camps, which employ CCC labor exclusively, are set up in Regions 1, 3, 4, and 5.

The Forest Service, which had administered certain fiscal, procurement, and personnel matters for the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, continued to do so after the transfer of the camps to the Service. The camps are now being assigned to the regional conservators in whose territories they are situated, the move to become effective July 1, 1939.

OFFICE AT VERNON, TEXAS, MOVED TO ABILENE

On June 21 the area office at Vernon, Texas, was moved to Abilene with Earl H. Varnell in charge as acting conservationist.

Because of Abilene's central location on the Plains both economy and efficiency will improve as a result of this change, according to Regional Conservator Louis P. Merrill.

WASHITA FLOOD SURVEY

Three representatives of the Washita flood survey party, Leslie L. Swim, Carl F. Fisher, and Marl L. Dervage, were in Washington last week to report progress and to discuss with various technicians of the Washington office certain problems connected with the survey, particularly those relating to hydrology and meteorology.

While in Washington the men had an opportunity to discuss these problems with Messrs. L. K. Sherman, R. E. Horton, and W. W. Horner, collaborators with the division of research.

The party is making a detailed study of the Washita watershed in Oklahoma and Texas, preliminary to working out recommendations for flood control. They utilize hydrologic and precipitation data obtained from Weather Bureau and Soil Conservation Service stations established on 8,108 acres of the watershed.

Technicians in the Washington office gave general approval to the methods of approach of the group. The suggestion was made, however, that rather than limit their observations to the more intense type of storm covering relatively small areas, their evaluations be expanded to include more general storms affecting larger areas.

FORTHCOMING SPEECHES BY THE CHIEF

Conservation Day will be observed at the New York World's Fair on July 6. Dr. Bennett will speak on "Conservation and Thrift" sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The exact hour has not been specified.

The Chief will address a group representing the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in the auditorium of the U.S.D.A. on July 12 at 3:15 p.m.

On July 19 Dr. Bennett will speak at the Kudzu Jamboree to be held at Dadeville, Ala.

The subject of Dr. Bennett's address to the conservation students at Louisiana Tech, Ruston, La., on July 21 will be "Soil Erosion and Its Control."

On July 27 the chief will attend the Crowley Ridge Peach Festival at Forrest City, Ark.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS

4-H Club members from all parts of the country convened at Washington last week. On June 21 H. H. Bennett discussed informally certain aspects of soil conservation with representatives of a dozen or more states who called at the Soil Conservation Service offices in the South Building. Later in the day he addressed a much larger group of 4-H members in the U.S.D.A. auditorium.

On the same day the chief spent an hour or so explaining the workings and accomplishments of the Service to a group of county agents who were introduced by C. W. Warburton, director of Extension Service.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE CONSERVATION COURSE

Under the leadership of the Extension Service, the Hampton Institute, Va., will conduct a three weeks' training course next month for Negro

students interested in agricultural problems. The sessions on July 10 and 11 have been allotted to the Soil Conservation Service.

At the first session Lloyd E. Partain of the division of states relations will discuss conservation planning for the farm and the farmer. On the second day, with the aid of maps, plans, charts, etc., he will discuss physical and economic conditions on an actual farm. A field trip will be included if time permits.

NOTES

No doubt some pretty tall fish stories went the rounds at the barbecue sponsored by the Isaac Walton League at Forest Glen, Md., on June 24. H. H. Bennett, who attended the picnic, addressed the group on wildlife.

Edward H. Graham of the division of biology will address the Maryland Sportsman's Luncheon Club on "Wildlife and Conservation" on July 11.

To observe the termination of a short course for game wardens given by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the annual meeting of the Virginia Wildlife Federation will be held at Blacksburg, Va., June 30-July 1. William R. Van Dersal of the biology division will give an illustrated address on "Soil Conservation and Wildlife Conservation."

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAND ACQUISITION DIVISION

More than 9 1/2 million acres of land costing nearly 70 million dollars have been purchased during the past 4 years under the Division of Land Acquisition of the Land Utilization program.

Under the guidance of the Farm Security Administration, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the Soil Conservation Service, land was acquired by the Division of Land Acquisition for the following agencies:

Land Use	24,247	6,746,557	32,857,948
Biological Survey	995	724,272	5,643,019
Indian Service	1,643	1,225,773	3,520,153
Park Service	<u>2,514</u>	<u>394,968</u>	<u>4,255,153</u>
Total (submarginal land)	29,399	9,091,570	46,277,273
Others	354	21,395	3,921,104
Forest	15	3,290	87,910
Resettlement	<u>2,462</u>	<u>558,751</u>	<u>19,337,182</u>
Grand total	32,230	9,675,006	69,622,469

All funds allocated for submarginal land purchase from relief and drought relief appropriations expired on June 30, 1939. The options listed above were all liquidated except 1,127 tracts which had been transferred to the Park Service in 1937.

In addition, as of June 30, 1939, 1,953,881 acres involving \$8,092,756 were acquired under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

FARM FORESTRY IN REGION I

The cooperative farm forestry program is getting well under way in Region I,

Joint meetings of representatives of State and Federal agencies and others interested in the program have been held in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. State problems were reviewed and the groundwork of cooperative relations laid.

The Directors of Extension and State Foresters throughout the region are taking an active interest in developments in the farm forestry work. Committees to prepare State programs are being appointed.

STAFF CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON

A joint conference of all regional conservators, state coordinators, and Washington staff members began Friday at Mount Weather, Va. Sessions at Mount Weather will continue over the week-end and will be followed by sessions in Washington on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

During the course of the conference all phases of the Soil Conservation Service program will be discussed and procedures outlined for future activities.

DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT LAW

A total of 114 soil conservation districts in 23 States have now entered into memoranda of understanding with the Department of Agriculture.

Oklahoma continues to lead the nation in the number of districts with a total of 17. Arkansas is second with 12 districts, while Mississippi comes third with 9.

Passage of a soil conservation districts law in Iowa during the past week brings to 36 the number of States in which such laws have been adopted. The others are:

Alabama	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Minnesota	South Carolina
California	Mississippi	South Dakota
Colorado	Montana	Tennessee
Florida	Nebraska	Texas
Georgia	Nevada	Utah
Idaho	New Jersey	Vermont
Illinois	New Mexico	Virginia

Indiana	North Carolina	Washington
Kansas	North Dakota	West Virginia
Louisiana	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Maryland	Oregon	

LAND USE PLANNING CONFERENCES

A series of land use planning conference tours, in which representatives of various Bureaus of the Department are to meet with State and county officials, representatives of colleges, and members of agricultural cooperatives, has been arranged by the Secretary of Agriculture. A wider first-hand acquaintance with the various activities in the field is seen as a valuable help towards achieving a more effective common program for agriculture.

The plans include visits to sample projects of the various Departmental and State agencies to enable the group (1) to get a better understanding of the different types of work carried on by Bureaus of the Department, (2) to familiarize itself with the approaches of different State agencies and county planning committees, and (3) to study the research approach. Special time was set aside to discuss and evaluate the work surveyed.

The first trip was held under the leadership of Undersecretary Wilson through New York and New England July 1-8. Dillon S. Myer, assistant to the chief, represented the Soil Conservation Service.

Submarginal land development, reforestation, farm rehabilitation, and salvage work in the New England hurricane area were among the activities inspected, and visits were made to State Experiment stations and Soil Conservation Service demonstration projects. Visits in New York State included the Grange League Federation at Ithaca and the forestry cooperative at Cooperstown. In Vermont a stop was made at the Morgan horse breeding farm at Middlebury.

Land use planning conferences to be held in the near future include trips to the west coast section and to the Great Plains.

DISTRICTS PLANNING IN TEXAS

At the request of the Texas Conservation Board, J. Phil Campbell, assistant to the chief, attended a recent meeting of the Board to formulate plans for the organization of soil conservation districts.

Representatives of interested Federal and State agencies and colleges also attended. In Texas the State Conservation Board consists of five farmers, elected by the farming communities of their respective areas.

FARM FORESTRY IN THE WEST

John F. Preston of the forestry division spent the month of June inspecting the progress of the forestry work in Regions 9 and 10. He visited Regions 8 and 6 en route.

At Moscow, Idaho, and Berkeley, Calif., meetings were held at which all interested State and Federal agencies discussed the farm forestry problems. The groundwork was laid for getting the State programs under way.

While in the State of Washington, Mr. Preston visited a CCC camp at Snohomish which he reports as being in effect the pioneer farm forestry project of the nation. The staff of the camp includes two foresters and many of the ideas to be carried out under the provisions of the Farm Forestry Act are already in effect.

Everywhere he went, Mr. Preston found that the farm forestry program, as proposed, meets with the approval of agricultural workers and farmers. He is confident that the establishment of farm forestry demonstration projects will prove to be a very substantial contribution toward the solution of the complex problem of farm woodlands.

FARM UNIT REORGANIZATION IN REGION 6

One of the newer phases of the Soil Conservation Service program is the farm unit reorganization work which is being conducted in Region 6 in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration.

In this region many of the existing farms are too small to constitute a workable economic unit. Therefore the Soil Conservation Service is assisting farmers in enlarging their holdings, primarily through the leasing of absentee owned land.

Complete programs of soil and moisture conservation, including in most cases a shift from cash crops to live stock, are being formulated. The purchase of items such as live stock and the necessary farm machinery will be financed by the Farm Security Administration.

E. H. Reed of the farm management section recently returned from Region 6 where he made a study of the farm unit reorganization work. He feels that a good start has been made and that the plan offers excellent possibilities for other regions.

PRINTERS' INK

A simple, dependable, inexpensive device for classifying sand and silt in sufficient quantity for experimental investigation has been developed in the cooperative laboratory of the Soil Conservation Service, Pasadena, Calif.

In an article entitled "Wind Tunnel Classifier for Sand and Silt" George H. Otto and Hunter Rouse of the Pasadena laboratory describe the device and the procedure of classification. The classifier was built for approximately \$50 and is operated by one man.

PATENTS OBTAINED ON MECHANICAL DEVICES

Bernard L. Simmons of the division of information has obtained patents on a mechanical dotting device and scale liner which he developed. The Government has gained a shop-right interest in the devices which may be manufactured and used by or for the Government without the payment of royalties.

The mechanical dotter is more accurate than other dotters used in drafting and is conveniently operated.

In addition to its primary purpose, the scale section liner can be used as a protractor or an adjustable triangle.

FARM FORESTRY ON THE AIR

Morrill M. Tozier of the division of information will discuss the farm forestry program over station WMAL on Tuesday July 18, 1939, on the Farm and Home Program at 11:45 a.m., E.S.T.

JULY MEETINGS

Meetings during the month of July which may be of interest to members of the Soil Conservation Service are:

American Society of Civil Engineers, San Francisco, Calif., July 26-28.

Sixth Pacific Science Congress, Berkeley, Stanford University, and San Francisco, July 24 - August 12.

NOTES

John Dreier of the division of information will address students taking the summer course in the Federal Government at work at the University of Maryland on July 11. His lecture will be on "The Federal Government and Conservation."

C. W. Thornthwaite, head of the division of climatic research, will present a paper entitled "Evaporation from the Natural Land Surface at Berkeley, California" at the Sixth Pacific Science Congress, to be held at Berkeley, Stanford, and San Francisco, July 24-August 12, 1939.

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JOINT CONFERENCES AT MOUNT WEATHER AND WASHINGTON

During the conferences on July 14-19 at Mount Weather, Va., and Washington, D. C., state coordinators, regional conservators, and representatives of the Washington staff were brought together to review and study recent developments in the organization and functions of the Soil Conservation Service, and to discuss possible policies and procedures for carrying on the enlarged programs of the Service.

The chief opened the three-day session at Mount Weather, during which the responsibilities and relationships of state coordinators were analyzed. Panel-type discussions were arranged on demonstration projects, soil conservation districts, farm and project planning, land utilization, cooperative farm forestry, irrigation and drainage work, and the interrelation and coordination of the various responsibilities of the Service.

The afternoons of July 17-19 were devoted to an explanation and discussion of the work of the individual divisions of the Washington office. The assistant chiefs of the Service, representing the divisions of land utilization, technical operations, information and relations, research, project plans and surveys, and administration, outlined the activities of the respective divisions and introduced the personnel engaged in the work in Washington.

FIRE CONTROL IN THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES

A committee has been appointed to draw up plans for a program of research, survey, and operations for the control of fire in the Florida Everglades. Its members are J. H. Stallings, William X. Hull, and Harry R. Leach of the Washington office; A. Carnes, M. W. Lowry, and Glen Fuller of the regional office; Colin Gunn, State coordinator of Florida; and R. V. Allison of the University of Florida.

The committee plans a series of meetings at Clewiston, Fla., beginning Monday, July 31, to discuss the problem and to draw up recommendations for a working program. It is expected the committee will work closely with the recently established Everglades Fire Control Commission of the State of Florida, of which W. M. Stafford is chairman.

SCS REPORTS TO WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

In a statement before the select committee on conservation of wildlife resources of the House of Representatives, William R. Van Dersal, of the biology division, gave a resume of the work of the Soil Conservation Service to March 31, 1939. Dr. Van Dersal's statement included some very interesting figures.

Nearly seven million acres of land in land utilization projects are now administered by the Soil Conservation Service. In cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Forest Service, preliminary surveys are being made on 48 watersheds to determine the existence and seriousness of flood problems and the practical possibility of alleviating flood hazards and siltation.

The Soil Conservation Service and its 70,488 cooperating farmers have undertaken to place a coordinated program of conservation on 20,109,873 acres of land. The total conversion of cropland to land permanently covered by vegetation amounts to 940,226 acres. This is an increase of more than a half million acres over last year's figure.

Strip cropping has been introduced on 1,891,508 acres. More than 95,000 miles of terraces have been constructed. Contour cultivation has been introduced on 3,885,334 acres.

In summing up the work of the Service, Dr. Van Dersal points out that there is no class of agricultural land on which at least some wildlife development cannot be successfully undertaken.

KUDZU SEED PRODUCED IN REGION 2

The original kudzu seed used by the Soil Conservation Service came from Japan in 1935. Several thousand pounds annually have been imported since then. However, the nursery men in Region 2 have been experimenting with domestic production of the seed.

F. J. Crider, acting head of the Washington nursery division, and W. F. Peel of the division of technical operations spent the past two weeks reviewing nursery and L. U. projects in Region 2. According to their report, 25,000,000 kudzu seedlings will be produced

during the present season. It is expected that within the next few years the entire needs of the Service will be supplied by home grown seeds.

REFORESTATION IN NEW ENGLAND

Hilda S. Cunniff of the hillculture division, who recently visited New England, reports that last year was an exceptionally good year for natural forest reproduction. Seedling trees by the million -- white pine, white ashe, bird cherry, sugar maple, and northern red oak -- carpet the ground.

Seedlings on land pastured by cattle ordinarily stand little chance of surviving. This year's crop, protected by the litter of fallen trees and brush-wood, has an excellent opportunity to develop.

In spite of the fact that thousands of trees were blown down, erosion was prevented by the ground cover of pine needles, leaves, and herbaceous plants, according to this botanist. Only where the skidding of logs laid the ground bare has wash taken place.

Miss Cunniff points out incidentally that the entire root systems of trees uprooted by the hurricane are exposed, thus affording an exceptional opportunity for the study of root systems of New England trees.

COOPERATORS POLL IN REGION 4

Returns from a questionnaire sent to sample cooperators throughout Region 4 reveal that a large majority are convinced of the value of soil conservation measures.

Of 1474 farmers, 1449 will continue to carry out a complete soil and water conservation program after the expiration of cooperative agreements. Only 24 of 1453 cooperators are of the opinion that the value of their farms has not been increased. And 1077 of 1172 believe their farm income has increased.

For the region as a whole, according to the poll, terracing (728 votes) leads the individual practices most valuable to cooperators; woodland management, farm roads, clearing, and liming tie for last place with one or two votes each.

Other improvements rank as follows: contour farming, strip cropping, pasture improvement, crop rotation, soil-building practices, cover crops, contour furrows and ridges, sodding, fencing, farm ponds, and tree planting.

In conducting this poll the regional office sent out 3229 questionnaires of which 1536 had been returned at the time this information was compiled.

FILM STRIP ON GRASSED WATERWAYS

Film strip series No. 559, entitled "Establishment and Maintenance of Grassed Waterways", has just been released. It is 29 frames in length.

Prepared by W. H. Lathrop of Region 5, the strip is designed to illustrate the value and methods of establishing grassed waterways on cropland. It shows how natural drainageways may be utilized and erosion hazards eliminated by turning eroded areas into protected waterways for the safe handling of excess run-off.

LEGISLATION

S. 281, to amend further the Civil Service Retirement Act of 1930, passed the House on July 15, and was sent to conference of both Houses. This bill provides for optional retirement at 55, compulsory retirement at 65 and 70, and raises the retirement deductions to five percent.

The Hatch-Dempsey bill (S. 1871), restricting the political activities of federal employees, was inserted in the Congressional Record for July 24 and was ordered to be printed as S. Doc. 100.

On July 18 the House passed H. R. 5764 providing for the establishment of a cemetery within the Crab Orchard Creek Dam project in Illinois.

The Senate passed H. R. 6070 this week and the bill now goes to the President for signature. This bill eliminates reserve officers on CCC duty from the benefits prescribed in Section 5 of the National Defense Act of 1939.

CCC ENROLLMENT REACHES 300,000

The CCC has again reached its maximum strength of 300,000 men. Many of the States had completed their quotas well in advance of the July-20 deadline.

The disappointed applicants will have another chance for enrollment in October.

NATURAL REFORESTATION ON CUT-OVER LANDS IN FLORIDA

W. F. Peel of the division of technical operations recently visited the L. U. project at Milton, Fla. This project presents an excellent example of volunteer reproduction of long-leaf and slash pine on cut-over lands where protective measures have been applied.

There is a game farm on the project, which includes a fish hatchery, a deer corral, and facilities for incubating and raising quail. Twenty-seven hundred birds have been released during the past three years.

EXPLORERS IN THE SERVICE

Members of the Washington staff recently elected to membership in the Explorers Club are Edward H. Graham of the biology division and Charles F. Swingle of the nursery division.

Both men are active non-resident members of the Club, which was formed in New York City to unite explorers in the bonds of good-fellowship and to promote the work of exploration.

Dr. Graham has done field work in British Guiana, Mexico, and the southwestern United States. He has lectured and has written professional papers, chiefly on the botanical results of his explorations.

Dr. Swingle was the American representative on the Humbert-Swingle expedition for plant exploration in Madagascar in 1928. He has lectured and has written both popular and scientific papers on this expedition.

Ernest G. Holt, chief of the biology division, is also a member of the Club.

APPRECIATION BY WESTERN GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONERS

At its 19th annual conference at Del Monte, Calif., June 23 and 24, the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS during the past year the agencies of the Federal Government that have to do with the wildlife resources of the West have shown an increased willingness to cooperate with the wildlife administrators of the several Western States,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners extend its thanks to the United States Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, and the United States Bureau of Fisheries for their wholehearted cooperation."

PRINTERS' INK

The July issue of American Forests reprints part of a letter written by W. C. Lowdermilk, chief of the division of research, to H. H. Bennett. The article, entitled "Across North Africa with a Soil Conservationist," covers a two-months trip of 6,585 miles through Algeria, Tunisia, Tripolitania, Lybia, Egypt, and Jerusalem.

In following the footprints of the ancient Romans across north Africa, Dr. Lowdermilk was able to study works of check damming, and terracing in the Plain of Esdraelon where water conservation first began.

Illustrative of the desolation caused by erosion is the Land of Goshen, in the days of Joseph "the best grazing country in all the land," now barren, uninhabited country whose naked slopes are outlined with goat paths, but with no visible vegetation. In traveling over 70 miles of the entire area, only two thorny trees were visible from the road.

Dr. Lowdermilk was able to observe active erosion throughout the entire trip. He writes that "every country has put on heavy rains and erosion demonstrations" for his benefit.

In an article entitled "Matching Industry's Progress," which appears in the June issue of The Agrarian, regional conservator T. S. Buie points out that severe erosion is the natural result of Piedmont agriculture built around cotton and corn.

Dr. Buie sees the districts program as the solution to the Piedmont agricultural problem. Cooperative action and land-use planning, he says, would "put agriculture on an equal footing with industry and at the same time conserve our basic soil resources."

A paper presented by Ralph W. Baird before the Soil and Water Division at the fall meetings of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at Chicago, Ill., last December, is published in the July issue of Agricultural Engineering under the title "Watershed and Hydrologic Studies on the Blacklands Experimental Watershed."

Mr. Baird, project supervisor of the Blacklands Experimental Watershed, outlines the physical and historical background of the area, the reason for the selection of this watershed, the equipment installed, and the objectives of the studies carried on in the watershed.

TENNESSEE CONSERVATION CAMP

A state-wide conservation camp will be held at Montgomery-Bell Park, Tenn., August 23 - September 2. Members of young farmers' clubs, 4-H club boys 16 years old or over, and club leaders will be instructed in the conservation of wildlife, fish, soil, and timber.

The camp will be under the supervision of the Extension Service with assistance from the State Department of Conservation, the Federal Cartridge Corporation, and the agricultural division of the TVA.

Montgomery-Bell Park, 4,000 acres in extent, is an excellent place to study forestry, streams, and wildlife. Consisting of submarginal land purchased and developed by the Federal government, it is now under the supervision of the State Department of Conservation.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Third Commission of the International Society of Soil Science, concerned with the subject of soil microbiology, will hold its meetings in New Brunswick, N. J., August 30 - September 1, on the campus of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers University. Papers will be presented on three subjects: Legumes and Legume Bacteria, Microbiology of Soil Organic Matter, and Azotobacter and Its Significance in Soil Processes.

The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics will hold its triennial meeting in Washington, D. C., September 4-15. Its last meeting was at Edinburgh, Scotland.

NOTES

S. Antebi of Tel-Aviv, director of agriculture for Palestine, is spending two or three months in the United States studying American agriculture, especially soil conservation measures. While visiting

the Washington headquarters last week, Dr. Antebi outlined his itinerary which takes him west through the northern States, down through the Pacific coast region, and east by way of the southern States.

The office employees at Upper Darby were given an opportunity to observe the work of the Service last week. H. L. Buckardt, chief training officer of the Washington training section, accompanied the group on a field trip to Lancaster, Pa., where they visited the project, some farms in the vicinity, and a CCC camp.